



CANNON BUILDING  
861 SILVER LAKE BLVD., SUITE 203  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904-2467

STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEPHONE: (302) 744-4500  
FAX: (302) 739-2712  
WEBSITE: WWW.DPR.DE.LAWARE.GOV

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

## **ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Committee held a meeting on February 20, 2017 at 4:30 p.m., in Conference Room A, Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, DE.

**PRESENT:** Cindy Cunningham, PMHCNS/NP; Mary Diamond, DO; Sandy Elliott, CNM; Richard Henderson, MD (at 4:44 pm); Leena Paul, MD; Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C

**ABSENT:** Ronald Castaldo, PhD, CRNA; Maryanne Holzapfel, RPh; Manisha Wadhwa, MD

**GUESTS:** None

**PRESIDING:** Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C

**STAFF:** Peggy Mack, PhD, APRN, Executive Director - Division of Professional Regulation; Jennifer L. Singh, Deputy Attorney General, Delaware Department of Justice (5:52pm)

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Williams called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

### **2.0 Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Dr. Paul moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Diamond. The motion passed unanimously. (The January 2017 meeting was cancelled due to weather).

### **3.0 Old Business**

#### **3.1. Discussion of application process for independent practice**

The Committee discussed the recent questions that have been received by the Executive Director, regarding the application and the process for obtaining independent practice. The APRN Committee reviewed the application for independent practice, which has been posted on the Board of Nursing web site, by the Division of Professional Regulation.

The Committee discussed if the qualifier, "clinical," needed to be included or omitted from the application for independent practice. Ms. Singh stated that the clinical practice is inherent in the statute.

The Committee identified that the term, "full time", was not the correct requirement. Committee members observed that the requirement, "full time," did not mirror the APRN FAQs. The Committee observed 8 places, where the term, "full time" was noted:

1. Application for Independent Practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Instruction Sheet, page 1, under the heading, When to File Independent Practice Application, third bullet, second small bullet: “Practice as an APRN for at least 4,000 full time clinical hours with a collaborative agreement, and”
2. Application for Independent Practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Instruction Sheet, page 1, under the heading Requirements, third box: “To verify the minimum experience requirement of two years and 4,000 hours full time clinical hours, arrange for the Board office to receive the *Verification of Experience and Competency* form from each collaborator.
3. Application for Independent Practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Instruction Sheet, page 1, under the heading Requirements, third box, first bullet point: “If you cannot obtain the *Verification of Experience and Competency* form from previous collaborators, submit your tax form W-2 proving full time employment within the past five years.
4. On page 1, Application For Independent Practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, under Experience, #8: “Have you completed two years **and** 4,000 hours of full time clinical APRN practice in this role within the five years preceding this application?”
5. On page 2, Application For Independent Practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, #9: “Enter the following information about the person(s) who will be submitting verification of your full time clinical experience.”
- 6 – 8. On page 1, *Verification of Experience and Competency* form, question #9:
  - “To practice independently in Delaware an APRN is required to complete at least two years **and** at least 4,000 hours of full time clinical practice.”
  - “Total hours of full time APRN clinical practice: \_\_\_\_\_”
  - “Time period during which the APRN practiced full time: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_”

Dr. Paul motioned, seconded by Dr. Henderson, that the words, full time, be removed from the independent practice application and be replaced with: ...”2 years **and** 4,000 hours of clinical APRN practice in this role within the five years....” The motion passed unanimously. The wording, full time, is to be removed from the entire application per Committee vote.

Afterwards, the Committee voted to accept the Application for Independent Practice with the proposed changes. Dr. Henderson motioned, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to accept the Application for Independent Practice with the proposed changes. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 4.0 New Business

##### 4.1 Potential Statute Changes for APRNS

The Committee discussed the statute as related to APRNs and provided by the DAG as “clean-up” wording. Dr. Henderson offered suggestions. It was agreed that on the statute, page 1, (b) (1) a and b that “advanced practice registered nurses” needs to be capitalized on page 1, page 2 and throughout the statute - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. Dialogue occurred regarding the words, “substantially related” as noted on page 3 and page 5 of the statute. Dr. Henderson asked for clarification – “what does substantially related to the population focus” mean from the APRN perspective? Is there variability that might be acceptable? The group agreed that the words, “substantially related,” be deleted. On page 5, (f) (3) b. 1, the group discussed the wording, “The two year collaboration will not commence until the collaborative agreement is submitted and approved by the Committee and Board of Nursing.” The Committee members revised the sentence to read: “Independent practice will not commence until the application for independent practice is approved by the Committee.” The DAG will clarify if the Board of Nursing needs to approve independent practice

applications or if the Board of Nursing will only be responsible to ratify those APRNs approved for independent practice.

The DAG explained that the statute changes were approved last year by the Board of Nursing. The statute changes will need to be presented to the Division and the Secretary of State to determine a timetable for introducing the bill and the changes to statute.

#### **5.0 Other Business** (for discussion)

##### **5.1 APRN FAQs**

The Executive Director informed Committee members that the APRNs FAQs were posted on the Board of Nursing web site. Copies were made available to the Committee. The Committee agreed that the Executive Director will collect feedback regarding the APRNs questions for the next two months and then the Committee will revise FAQs accordingly.

##### **5.2 APRN Compact**


Dr. Williams reported on the APRN Compact, as discussed with the Board of Nursing. The APRN Compact will not move forward this legislative session, but may be introduced in 2018.

#### **4.0. Public Comment** – None

#### **5.0 Next Meeting Dates** – March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

#### **6.0 Adjournment** – 6:52 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peggy Mack".

Peggy Mack, PhD, APRN, PMHCNS,  
Executive Director, Board of Nursing